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(a) a main communication board comprising;

at least one power connection for supplying power to the main communication board and a daughter board connected to the main communication board,

a communication connection configured to communicate with a master gaming controller of the gaming machine, and

at least one standard receptor slot for securing the daughter board to the main communication board; and

(b) the daughter board configured to plug into the receptor slot of the main communication board and thereby provide a communication format for allowing the gaming machine to communicate, said daughter board comprising:

conversion circuitry for converting signals between the communication format and a second communication format.

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended for the purposes of clarification.

Specification

The examiner objected to the title as not being descriptive. A new title has been provided and the objection is believed overcome thereby.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-26 and 28 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Acres et al. (US patent No. 5, 741, 183). The rejection is respectively traversed.

The present invention, as recited in claims 1-13, describes at least a communication interface for a gaming machine comprising: i) a main communication board comprising a) at least one power connection for supplying power to the main communication board and a daughter board connected to the main communication board, b) a communication configured to communicate with a master gaming controller of the gaming machine and c) at least one standard receptor slot; and ii) the daughter board configured to plug into the receptor slot of the main

communication board and thereby provide a communication format for allowing the gaming machine to communicate where the daughter board comprises conversion circuitry for converting signals between the communication format and a second communication format. In some instances, the sections of Acre's referenced by the examiner did not seem to point out features as recited in claims 1-13 or pointed out the structure as recited in claim 1-13 in a confusing way.

For instance, it is not clear to the applicant what the Examiner is saying is the main communication board and what is the daughter board as recited in claim 1? In (Col. 16, lines 56-65), the examiner states that Acre's teaches at least one standard receptor slot. In Acre's, (Col. 16, 56-65), describes a personality board 202 (see FIG. 9). The Personality board is connected to a data communication node 42 and a gaming machine (see FIG. 2). The components of the personality board are mounted on a printed circuit board that is mounted inside a connector harness. The DCN 42 can be removed and reinstalled. In FIG. 2, the personality board and the DCN 42 are shown as separate but connected elements. Claim 1 describes a daughter board configured to plug into the standard receptor slot on the main communication board. In Col. 16, 56-65, it is not clear that the personality board is plugging into a receptor slot on the DCN 42 or the DCN 42 is plugging into a receptor slot on the personality board because a receptor slot is not described only connections between the DCN and the personality board are described. Although the DCN 42 may be removed, a standard connector on the DCN 42 designed to be plugged into a standard receptor slot on a main communication board is not described.

The examiner states in Col. 10, 42-56 a communication connection configured to communicate with a master gaming controller is shown. Col. 10, 42-56, describes, the DCN 42. Thus, if the examiner is saying the DCN 42 is the main communication board, it should include a power connection for supplying power to the main communication board and the daughter board, a standard receptor slot for receiving a daughter board and a communication connection to the master gaming controller on the gaming machine. These elements on a main communication board are not described in the Acre's teaching cited by the examiner. Further, the examiner states that Col. 10, 42-56 also teaches a daughter board. Since Col. 10, 42-56 describes the DCN 42 is **the examiner stating the DCN 42 is both the daughter board and the main communication board?** If so, how is it plugged into itself?

In Col. 10, line 25, the examiner states Acre's teaches at least one communication connection on the main communication board. Col. 10, line 25 teaches a Power signal that is describes a known event on the gaming machine not a power connection on a main communication board for providing power to the main communication board and the daughter board.

The examiner states that Col. 19, 7-25 teaches a daughter board. However, Col. 19, 7-25, describes a floor controller (see FIG. 1 and 12), which is in a separate device from the elements

already cited by the examiner. The Examiner states that Col. 9, 45-67 and Col. 10, 42-56 teach a daughter board. However, Col. 9, 45-67 Col. 10, 42-56 describe different elements of the DCN 42. **In this case, is the examiner saying one of the elements of the DCN 42 is the daughter board?** If one of the elements on the DCN 42 is the daughter board please point out to the applicant which one it is? In Acre's as cited by the examiner the limitations of claim 1-13, such as the power connection and the receptor slot on the main communication board and the daughter board that can be plugged into the receptor slot on the main communication board are not taught. Therefore, for at least these reasons, Acre's can't be said to anticipate claims 1-13 and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In regards to claims 14-26 and 28, claim 14 describes a daughter board for converting signals in a first communication format from a master gaming controller to a second communication format for transmission, the daughter board comprising : i) a standard connector for plugging into a standard receptor slot of a main communication board on the gaming machine and for receiving the signals in the first communication format from the master gaming controller; ii) conversion circuitry for converting signals from said first communication format to said second communication format; and iii) an output mechanism coupled to said conversion circuitry and allowing transmission of signals in said second format, wherein the standard connector is employed in a plurality of daughter boards providing conversions between differing communications formats.

The examiner states the limitations of the daughter board as recited in claims 14-26 and 28 are described in Acre's, Cols. 10, lines 17-34 and lines 41-67. Acre's in Col. 10, 17-34 and 41-67 describes discrete outputs are received at terminals via a cable connected to the machine. **Again, as described above with respect to claims 1, what element does the examiner consider to be the main communication board with a standard receptor slot and what element does the examiner consider to be the daughter board?** In Acre's a connector for receiving a cable from the machine is described. A standard connector on the daughter board that can be plugged into a standard receptor on the main communication board is not described. Since Acre's does not describe a standard connector on the daughter board that can be plugged into a standard receptor on the main communication board in Col. 10, 17-34 and 41-67, for at least these reasons, Acre's can't be said to anticipate claims 14-26 and 28 and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 29-35 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Niizuma et al. (US patent No. 6, 338, 105). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Niizuma teaches that since the communication format between the game device and the peripheral device is standardized by a frame format compatibility between the game device and a plurality of types of peripheral devices can be readily guaranteed (Col. 3, 37-45). In Niizuma, the peripheral devices can accept different commands (Col. 20, 17-20), however, only one type of standardized communication format is described in the portions of Niizuma cited by the Examiner. This communication format can be adapted for different commands. The limitations of claim 29 and 30 describe three different communication formats, a first communication format (Claims 29,30), a second communication (Claims 29, 30) and a communications format other than the first communication format (Claim 29) or a third communications format (Claim 30). In Niizuma, a single standardized communication format is taught. Conversion between three different communication formats is not taught. Thus, for at least these reasons, Niizuma can't be said to anticipate claim 29 and 30-35 and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

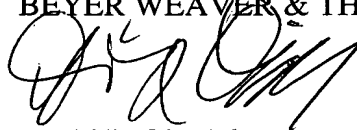
Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 27 under U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Acres et al. (US patent No. 5, 741, 183) in view of Niizuma et al. (US patent No. 6, 338, 105). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above with respect to claim 14, Acre's does not describe a standard connector on the daughter board that can be plugged into a standard receptor on a main communication board. Adding a fiber optic capability from Niizuma does not overcome the previously discussed deficiencies in Acre's. Thus, for at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted Acres et al, Niizuma et al Niizuma et al or the combinations of Acres et al. and Niizuma et al. can't be said to render obvious the invention as recited in Claims 27 and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



David P. Olynick
Reg. No.: 48,615

P.O. Box 778
Berkeley, CA 94704-0778
510-843-6200



APPENDIX A

1. (Amended) A communication interface for a gaming machine comprising:
 - (a) a main communication board comprising;
 - at least one power connection for supplying power to the main communication board and a daughter board connected to the main communication board,
 - a communication connection configured to communicate with a master gaming controller of the gaming machine, and
 - at least one standard receptor slot for securing the daughter board to the main communication board; and
 - (b) [a]the daughter board configured to plug into the receptor slot of the main communication board and thereby provide a [specified] communication format for allowing the gaming machine to communicate, said daughter board comprising:
 - conversion circuitry for converting signals between the communication format and a second communication format.
2. The communication interface of claim 1, wherein the daughter board provides a communication format allowing the master gaming controller to communicate with a gaming machine device.
3. The communication interface of claim 2, wherein the gaming machine device is a magnetic card reader, a display screen, a key pad, a network device or a display sign.
4. The communication interface of claim 1, wherein the daughter board provides a communication format allowing the master gaming controller to communicate with a gaming machine network.
5. The communication interface of claim 4, wherein the gaming machine network is a casino area network or a wide area progressive network.

6. The communication interface of claim 1, wherein the communication format is selected from the group consisting of RS-422/485, Fiber Optic, RS-232, DCS Current Loop, Link Progressive Current Loop and USB.

7. The communication interface of claim 1, wherein the communication connection between the main communication board and the master gaming controller is configured for an RS-232 communication format or a USB communication format.

8. The communication interface of claim 1, wherein the standard receptor slot is configured to accept a 15 pin connector.

9. The communication interface of claim 1, wherein the standard receptor slot is configured to accept a connector with one or more ground pins and one or more power pins wherein the ground pins are longer than the power pins on the connector.

10. The communication interface of claim 1, wherein the standard receptor is configured to supply power and a communication signal to the daughter board when the daughter board is plugged into the standard receptor slot.

11. The communication interface of claim 1, wherein the power connection is configured to receive power from a substantially non-varying power source.

12. The communication interface of claim 1, further comprising a second power connection wherein the second power connection is configured to receive power from a power source which is shut off by a switch within the gaming machine.

13. The communication interface of claim 1, wherein the gaming machine is a traditional slot game, a video slot game, a video poker game, keno game, or a lottery game.

14. A daughter board for converting signals in a first communication format from a master gaming controller to a second communication format for transmission, the daughter board comprising:

a standard connector for plugging into a standard receptor slot of a main communication board on the gaming machine and for receiving the signals in the first communication format from the master gaming controller;

conversion circuitry for converting signals from said first communication format to said second communication format; and

an output mechanism coupled to said conversion circuitry and allowing transmission of signals in said second format,

wherein the standard connector is employed in a plurality of daughter boards providing conversions between differing communications formats.

15. The daughter board of claim 14, wherein the first communication format is RS-232 or USB.

16. The daughter board of claim 14, wherein the second communication format is selected from the group consisting of RS-422/485, Fiber Optic, RS-232, DCS Current Loop, Link Progressive Current Loop or USB.

17. The daughter board of claim 14, wherein the first communication format is selected from the group consisting of RS-422/485, RS-232, DCS Current Loop and Link Progressive Current Loop.

18. The daughter board of claim 14, wherein the conversion circuitry provides a communication conversion allowing the master gaming controller to communicate with a gaming machine device.

19. The daughter board of claim 18, wherein the gaming machine device is a magnetic board reader, a display screen, a key pad, a network device or a display sign.

20. The daughter board of claim 18, further comprising an optocoupler integrated circuit wherein in the optocoupler integrated circuit is configured to provide electrical isolation between the gaming machine device and the main communication board or electrical isolation between the gaming machine network and the main communication board.

21. The daughter board of claim 14, wherein the conversion circuitry provides a communication conversion allowing the master gaming controller to communicate with a gaming machine network.

22. The daughter board of claim 21, wherein the gaming machine network is a casino area network or a wide area progressive network.

23. The daughter board of claim 14, wherein the output mechanism is a fiber optic cable, a ribbon line cable, twisted pair cable or other wire medium.

24. The daughter board of claim 14, wherein the standard connector is a 15 pin connector.

25. The daughter board of claim 14, wherein the standard connector is configured to receive power from the main communication board.

26. The daughter board of claim 14, wherein the standard connector is configured to have one or more power pins and one or more ground pins wherein the ground pins are longer than the power pins.

27. The daughter board of claim 14, wherein the first communication format is a Fiber Optic standard.

28. The daughter board of claim 27, further comprising an echo disable circuitry wherein the echo disable circuitry is configured to receive a signal that disables the transmission of signals from the output mechanism.

29. In a gaming machine having a master gaming controller and a main communication board allowing communication via various communications formats, a method of communicating with a gaming machine via multiple communication formats, the method comprising:

providing a first daughter board in a first standard receptor slot of the main communication board, which first daughter board converts signals in a first communications format from the master gaming controller to signals in a second communications format for transmission; and

replacing the first daughter board with a second daughter board in the first standard receptor slot of the main communication board, which second daughter board converts signals in a first communications format from the master gaming controller to signals in a communications format, other than the first communication format, for transmission.

30. In a gaming machine having a master gaming controller and a main communication board allowing communication via various communications formats, a method of communicating with a gaming machine network and with a gaming device via multiple communication formats, the method comprising:

providing a first daughter board in a first standard receptor slot of the main communication board, which first daughter board converts signals in a first communications format from the master gaming controller to signals in a second communications format for transmission to the gaming machine device;

providing a second daughter board in a second standard receptor slot of the main communication board, which second daughter board converts signals in a first communications format from the master gaming controller to signals in a third communications format for transmission to the gaming machine network; and

replacing the first daughter board with a third daughter board in the first standard receptor slot of the main communication board while the second daughter board converts signals in a first communications format from the master gaming controller to signals in a third communications format for transmission to the gaming machine network

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the gaming machine network is a casino area network or a wide area progressive network.

32. The method of claim 30, wherein the third communication format is a fiber optic communication standard.

33. The method of claim 30, wherein the first communication format is an RS-232 communication standard.

34. The method of claim 30, wherein the gaming machine device is selected from a group consisting of a magnetic card reader, a display screen, a key pad, a network device or a display sign.

35. The method of claim 30, wherein the second communication format is selected from the group consisting of RS-422/485, Fiber Optic, RS-232, DCS Current Loop, Link Progressive Current Loop and USB.